

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

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Early Day Garnerings

The Monterey History and Art Association Ltd. receives many gifts, many inquire for historical information and cards and letters, announcements regarding the activities of other organizations of like interest—so we get our desk piled up with these until we decide to use the information all together in one day's issue of the Diary. So here it is.

Mrs. Helen J. Small of Carmel gave the association two old photographs of Monterey's 4th of July celebration. Her aunt Janet Malcolm McDermott, has supplied this information to go with the pictures:

"The Native Daughters of the Golden West put on the celebration. It was held on July 4, 1896, and your mother, Esther Malcolm, gave a recitation as she did for many years at Watsonville Plaza on the 4th of July. I cannot remember who Mrs. Luce was, evidently she was a Native Daughter (her name is on the back of one of the pictures). It would have to be a very old timer to give you any information."

Mrs. Small continues her note: "Anyway, I am indebted to Carmel Martin for being present at the Merienda which reminded me to take the pictures over to you—otherwise they might have gone down the drain as so many old relics do."

The late Myron Oliver found himself in one of the pictures, proudly sitting on a banister in the grandstand all dressed up in a white suit and sailor hat, with golden curls hanging down his back.

We also found Maj. Edwin A. Sherman in uniform and many decorations. He was chairman of the Sloat Monument Association and assisted in the plans for placing the monument on the Presidio Hill. The pictures are on display in Casa Serrano.

One of the questions which has come to me is this: "Do you know anything about Chinese portraits made in China for Californians about 1800 to 1850—or for anybody? A neighbor here is doing a book about early Chinese on the Pacific Coast, and says people used to send their tintypes or whatever off to China, where some Englishman had taught Chinese artists to make portraits, and it was quite customary to send for such portraits and there were a great many hung on the walls in San Francisco homes when it was booming; so

we wondered if anything similar could be found in Monterey, since the very rich governor lived there earlier than the San Francisco settlement."

Do you know anyone who would know about this?

Santa Clara is another old town in California which is losing much of its historical heritage through urban renewal and other so-called improvements. The home of several generations of Fatjos in that city is being torn down to make room for the expansion of the parochial school of St. Clare Catholic parish.

The first of the clan to see Santa Clara was Antonio Fatjo, a native of Barcelona, Spain. When a storekeeper in Santiago, Chile, offered the boy a job when arriving there as a member of the ship's crew, he promptly accepted it and jumped ship. He married a young lady resident of that city and they came to California during the gold rush. After a few years he opened the Farmers' Store in Santa Clara.

Don Antonio and his wife had three sons, Anthony, Louis and John, and two daughters, Amelia and Clorinda. Anthony married Refugua Malarin Spence of Monterey. She was a descendant of an old California Spanish family. In 1880 Anthony built the grand house in Santa Clara, now destroyed.

In 1949, it was listed by the County Planning Department as one of the 123 landmark structures in the county worth preserving. City officials talked of buying it for a Santa Clara City Museum but nothing was done. The assistant county planner, Gerry Wolff, when she head of the destruction, shook her head and said, "The old buildings are going at the rate of one a month. They won't last long."